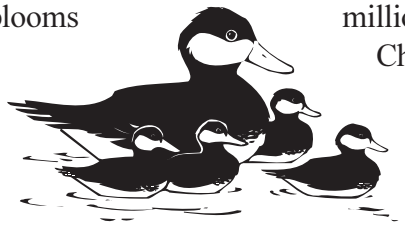
VERMONT . . .
KEEPING IN TOUCH
Published by: EPA's Vermont State Program Unit
Released: June 1996

# PHOSPHOROUS REDUCTION STRATEGY FOR CHAMPLAIN APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Years of planning, negotiating, and hard work paid off on June 6 when the Lake Champlain Management Conference (LCMC) unanimously supported a phosphorus reduction strategy for the lake that will lead to cleaner waters with less algae and a healthier ecosystem. Phosphorous causes algae blooms that turn the water green, reduce water transparency, deplete the oxygen supply, and create odor problems. These blooms ultimately alter fish and wildlife habitat.



The phosphorous strategy represents the most recent bi-state effort to coordinate protection of the lake, which has been ongoing for the past 90 years. The LCMC, which includes representatives from state and federal governments as well as citizens, local government, business, and academic and agricultural representatives, is committed to implementing this strategy and is already working at the state and federal levels to obtain funds for phosphorus reduction. Governor George Pataki of New York announced he would seek approval of a $1.5 billion environmental bond, of which $15 million would be earmarked for Lake Champlain. Vermont has already committed over $11 million to place phosphorus controls on point sources and will need to commit additional funds to complete the required upgrades and reduce phosphorus loads from nonpoint sources.

This strategy is a key part of Opportunities for Action, a final draft pollution prevention, control, and restoration plan for Lake Champlain, which will be available to the public by early July. In addition to phosphorus

*Continued on page 2*

# EPA'S REORGANIZATION HAS STATE FOCUS

A cornerstone of EPA's recent reorganization is the formation of individual multi-media state units for each of the New England states in the Office of Ecosystem Protection (see page four for more details on the reorganization). These units are designed to facilitate a closer working relationship with the states, and are multi-program and multi-media. They place a special emphasis on states, and EPA hopes these new units will provide some continuity and understanding of state-specific issues within EPA. In addition, these units will:

- assist the states in coordinating within EPA on various issues;
- serve as an internal EPA advocate for the states;
- place special emphasis on State issues and state priorities; and
- facilitate program/media integration.

Lynne Hamjian is the manager of the Vermont State Program Unit and has a staff of eight. Their specialty areas, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses appear on the last page of this bulletin. In addition, the Unit's draft working vision appears on page three. We welcome any comments or reactions to this vision or to any of EPA's new directions.

In conjunction with the state, EPA's Vermont State Program Unit has developed a work plan for EPA staff for this year. This work plan tries to strike a balance between ongoing base programs to protect human health and the environment, and special projects to protect critical natural resources and ecosystems in Vermont. An example of EPA's base programs is the requirement that Vermont adopt and submit a rule for

*Continued on page 3*

*Continued from page 1*

## CHAMPLAIN APPROVAL

reduction, the plan addresses other issues for Lake Champlain, such as controlling nuisance aquatic species, preventing toxic pollution, protecting wetlands, and enhancing recreational opportunities.

On June 6, the LCMC approved a funding plan for $500,000 of EPA funds to be distributed among projects that will begin to implement the highest priorities in the plan. Many of these funds will be made available to local entities to support and strengthen their ability to address issues such as minimizing nonpoint source pollution, enhancing recreational opportunities, and working with other jurisdictions on common problems. Funds also will be used to control water chestnuts, to continue both education and efforts to prevent the spread of zebra mussels, and to support technical assistance to farmers in order to decrease phosphorus runoff.

EPA is committed to doing its part to realize the goals of this plan. Funds are being targeted from a variety of programs, including wetlands and nonpoint source programs, to help address the recommendations in the plan. In past years, for example, nonpoint source funds have been used to support the establishment of crop management services to assist farmers in the Winooski and Missisquoi watersheds, and to construct best management practices (in conjunction with USDA and state funds) on two farms near Middlebury. Similar types of projects will be advocated this year.

The EPA lab, Lexington, MA, is also becoming involved with Lake Champlain. Plans are underway for the lab to perform some toxic analyses on the lake that will become part of a longer-term program to help monitor the success of actions we have taken to reduce toxic substances in the lake.

In order to ensure that management strategies are producing results in the field, EPA is emphasizing the need to identify and track measures of success for many of its programs. Work is underway to identify appropriate measures of success in a handful of specific programs; Lake Champlain is one of these. EPA will discuss the results from this effort with other participants in the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

As the planning effort for Lake Champlain moves into implementation, EPA will continue its involvement. We have learned time and again that large planning efforts are only as successful as the implementation that follows. We look forward to supporting state and local governments as well as all the not-for-profit organizations and individuals committed to protecting this beautiful resource. Please contact Lee Steppacher at (617) 565-4883 for further details.

## STAMPING OUT RADON THROUGH EDUCATION

Radon, the second leading cause of lung cancer, can affect as many one in every six Vermont homes. The Vermont Health Department set a radon testing goal to have 40% of Vermont homes tested for radon by the year 2000. In one year, the efforts of the Vermont Department of Public Health resulted in a state-wide increase in radon testing, from 14.3% to 19.6% (well on the way toward meeting the testing goal).

For the last seven years, EPA has provided the Vermont Health Department with a state indoor radon grant. The Health Department has matched this grant dollar for dollar.

With the grant money from EPA, the Health Department has accomplished the following:

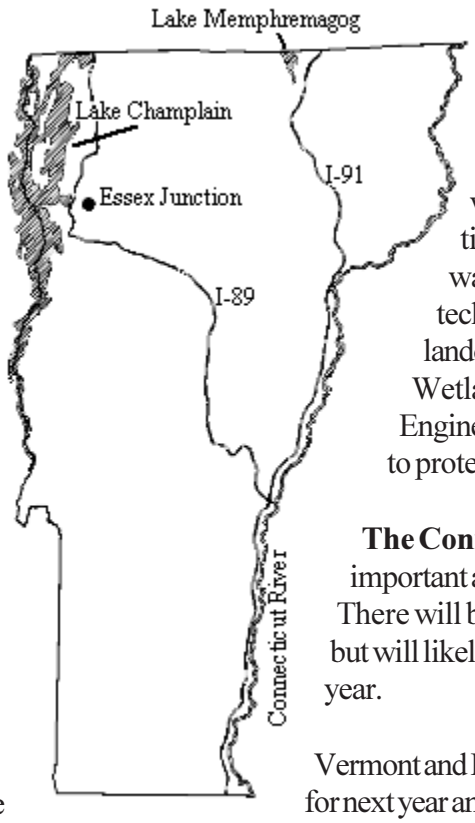
- Contracted with the Fairbanks and Montshire Museums to develop a Radon Education Guide for Teachers and provided radon information to an estimated 7,000 students in Vermont Public Schools;
- Developed a four-hour course available for the Vermont Association of Realtors through the Community College of Vermont;
- Developed and distributed a Vietnamese-language radon information booklet with the Vermont Vietnamese Association; and
- Maintained a toll free radon hotline; (800)640-0601.

*Continued from page 1*

## REORGANIZATION

drinking water that will protect water supplies across the state. With regard to special projects, the Lake Champlain Plan identifies the need for technical and financial assistance to small water systems in the Champlain basin in order to implement the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. We anticipate that our work will contain a combination of these two types of activities.

Members of the Vermont State Program Unit met with several agencies and groups in Vermont to determine priority places in Vermont that warrant special attention. We have taken a three-tiered approach. In **Lake Champlain**, we hope to carry out a fully integrated and mature strategy to assist in implementing the Lake Champlain Plan. This will involve a high level of EPA effort. (See page 1 for further details on EPA activities in the Lake Champlain Basin.)




In **Lake Memphremagog**, we plan to support ongoing water quality activities in the Basin. One example is a recent EPA grant to Vermont Fish and Wildlife's Nongame and Natural Heritage Program. They will evaluate wetland conditions, loss, and conservation status in the Lake Memphremagog watershed using GIS and gap analysis techniques, and will provide the results to landowners, municipalities, the Vermont Wetlands Office, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and land trusts to facilitate efforts to protect wetlands.

**The Connecticut River** is recognized as an important area, but EPA's role is still undefined. There will be a lower level of effort for this year but will likely develop further as we move into next year.

Vermont and EPA will be jointly planning activities for next year and will identify specific activities for EPA (see page 6 for more details on performance partnerships). EPA hopes to build these activities into its work plan for next year.

**WORKING VISION FOR THE VERMONT STATE PROGRAM UNIT**: To provide progressive leadership, education, and assistance in protecting Vermont's environment and communities. In partnership with Vermont and other concerned groups and individuals, to provide integrated approaches to protect human health, the environment, and critical natural resources and ecosystems.

## VERMONT TACKLES VEHICLE EMISSIONS

On-road vehicles account for about half of the manmade emissions of volatile organic compounds (many of which are air toxics), two-thirds of the nitrogen oxides, and nearly all of the carbon monxide emitted in Vermont today. Vermont has developed a three-step strategy to help ensure clean air for its citizens.

The strategy involves combining the elements of a low emission vehicles program, vapor recovery nozzles at gas stations, and an auto emission testing (I/M) program to comply with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, and will be a consumer-friendly step forward in the effort to bring clean air to New England. The low emission vehicles strategy will help ensure that cars are as clean as they can be when new, and I/M will help ensure that the vehicles are operating as clean as they can be years after they are driven from the new car show room.

Finally, by requiring vapor recovery nozzles at gas stations, Vermont not only will improve air quality, but also will reduce the exposure of motorists and service station attendants to cancer causing chemicals.

EPA is working with Vermont and supports these efforts.

# EPA ISSUES $200,000 GRANT TO BURLINGTON

## Will Revitalize Abandoned Industrial Land

EPA Region 1, New England awarded $200,000 to the City of Burlington to support an innovative program to redevelop formerly contaminated sites and promote sustainable economic growth.

The grant was awarded under EPA's Brownfields initiative, which promotes the return of unproductive commercial and industrial sites to economic use, and ensures that future development is achieved in a sustainable, environmentally sound manner. EPA's New England office has made Brownfields redevelopment a top priority under its site cleanup and urban environmental protection initiatives, and has recently brought $1.5 million to the region in Brownfields funding. Burlington will use the funds from its $200,000 grant to revitalize several properties throughout the city.

There are roughly 40 acres of contaminated properties located within a three-mile radius of Burlington's central business district. The Brownfields project will employ a strong community participation process to select the sites that will be targeted for redevelopment.

Part of the grant will be used to hire a project coordinator, who will begin the following activities:

- Engage affected neighborhoods through the establishment of an advisory council;
- Identify and assess levels of contamination at the respective sites;
- Identify and prioritize redevelopments plans;
- Develop partnerships and obtain commitments from those who might assist in redeveloping sites;
- Implement redevelopment plans;
- Attract reinvestment and viable businesses to redeveloped sites; and
- Integrate remediation into a process that could be repeated elsewhere.

The project manager will establish a council to foster community participation in the process that will be patterned after the coordinating council currently overseeing the Pine Street Barge Canal Superfund Site process. The project will also help establish a protocol for other redevelopment issues in Burlington, such as the proposed Riverside Eco-Park project. For further information regarding this Brownfields project, please contact John Podgurski at (617) 573-9681.

# MORE ON EPA'S REORGANIZATION

EPA Region 1, New England recently reorganized to put the Agency in a better position to meet the environmental challenges we face today. The reorganization will help to implement five key principles:

- better targeting of resources;
- stronger bridges with those we regulate as well as with other partners;
- more focus on outcomes, less on process;
- increased flexibility and responsiveness; and
- innovative approaches to environmental protection.

Our new structure also implements a more 'holistic' approach to environmental protection. To effectively address water pollution, we should be developing strategies to protect watersheds—not just acting on individual discharge permits. To effectively regulate industry, we should be looking at entire facilities, and understanding trade-offs between air, water, and solid waste pollution. The new organization adopts such an approach.

There are five major offices in EPA's Region 1 office:

- **Office of Ecosystem Protection** unites staff from air, pesticides and toxics, water, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) programs;
- **Office of Environmental Stewardship** is responsible for both enforcement and technical assistance targeted to the regulated community;
- **Office of Site Restoration and Revitalization** focuses on restoring contaminated properties through Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the RCRA corrective action program, and the Underground Storage Tank Program;
- **Office of Environmental Measurement and Evaluation** includes our laboratory, field, and quality assurance functions; and
- **Office of Administration and Resource Management** provides advice and services needed to serve the operations of the entire regional office.

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS:
### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE GRANTS

The Sustainable Development Challenge Grant Program is one of 25 major environmental reforms announced by President Clinton in March 1995. This program challenges local communities to invest in their own sustainable development futures through programs which integrate environmental protection, economic development, and social concerns. Eligible applicants include local governments, councils of government, Native American Tribes, and non-profit organizations. This year approximately $500,000 will be available nationwide in two grant ranges: $50,000 or less and $50,000 to $100,000. Next year, however, several million dollars are expected to be available; $10 million dollars are currently in the President's budget for this program. A 20% match is required and several criteria have been established for the selection of proposals. A **Federal Register** notice announcing the program is expected shortly. For additional information contact Rosemary Monahan, EPA Region 1, New England, at (617) 565-3551.

# OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

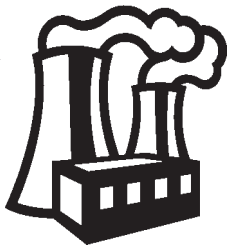
EPA Region 1, New England's Office of Environmental Stewardship (OES) is the focal point within the Region for encouraging and rewarding responsible environmental management by industry and other regulated entities in Vermont and other states—and for enforcing against those who do not act responsibly.

The Enforcement Unit of OES enforces regulatory program requirements under all major environmental laws. The Enforcement Unit combines strong, targeted enforcement with tools like supplemental environmental projects and alternative dispute resolution. This year EPA Region 1, New England has identified four cross-program enforcement themes: urban ecosystems, public agencies, industrial sectors, and sensitive ecosystems. The Region is devoting 80% of its inspection resources to targeted areas, to insure that the resulting enforcement is comprehensive in sector coverage, thorough in case preparation, and aggressive in results.

The Assistance and Pollution Prevention (A&P2) Unit of OES, the largest known organization of its type in the country, provides technical and regulatory assistance to industry as well as to the public sector. A&P2 promotes compliance, and especially, beyond compliance activities such as pollution prevention, and the development of innovative technology and environmental management systems through partnerships with the states and regulated community. Some of the programs available in Vermont to promote environmental stewardship include:

- The Center for Environmental Industry & Technology (800-575-CEIT);
- Compliance Leadership Through Enforcement, Audits, & Negotiation (CLEAN);
- Environmental Leadership Program (617-860-4ELP);
- New England Environmental Assistance Team (800-90NEEAT);
- Project XL (Excellence in Leadership) - See page 7 for the IBM Proposal;
- StarTrack Third Party Certification Program; and
- Pollution Prevention Programs like Green Lights, EnergyStar Buildings, ClimateWise, WasteWise, and Jobs Through Recycling.

A&P2 also manages the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and the Chemical Emergency Preparedness Program.



OES is accomplishing all this work in cross-media teams of attorneys and scientific, engineering, and technical staff organized around industrial sectors, sensitive ecosystems, and other priority areas.

Check out our World Wide Web site at: **http://www.epa.gov/region01**

## NEW PARTNERSHIPS FORGED WITH THE STATES

EPA is working closely with Vermont to begin joint planning for FY'97. On February 27, William Brierley, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, notified EPA that Vermont has decided to enter into full participation in the National Environmental Performance Partnership System for the various water programs. Under this new partnership, states with strong, effective environmental programs will have greater flexibility to focus their efforts on problems they define as most serious. As they track and report publicly on their environmental results, they will emphasize environmental outcomes rather than the number of activities undertaken.

Under this new relationship, EPA also plans to give states the option of combining funds received under several statutes into one or more "Performance Partnership Grants." Vermont will be able to consolidate its water program grants into one grant application and reduce the administrative costs associated with managing several water grants. States with strong environmental programs will have the flexibility to use those funds to address their most serious human health and environmental programs using community-based, geographic, pollution prevention, or cross-media strategies designed to meet specific local needs. States will also be developing environmental indicators for use in measuring progress towards achieving their goals.

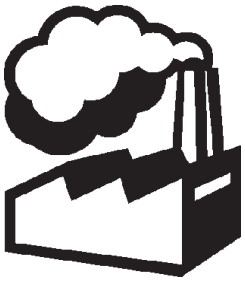
This summer, the State of Vermont and EPA will begin the planning process for next year. Public and stakeholder involvement is a key element to this new partnership system, and Vermont has plans to seek input from the public in early fall.

# NEW PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER CLEAN AIR ACT

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 required each state to develop a Title V operating permit program for significant sources of air emissions in the state. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) developed such a program in Vermont's Air Pollution Control Regulations, Chapter 5, Subchapter X. There are some significant dates of interest to industry regarding Vermont's program.

- State permit applications were due to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation on March 31, 1996.

- On May 24, 1996, EPA Region 1, New England published a proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register (61 FR 26105), which would grant interim approval to Vermont's operating permit program. This interim approval will give Vermont time to make some revisions to its program and simultaneously proceed with the issuance of Title V operating permits.



EPA also expects that the federal operating permit program will be effective this July in any state without a final EPA-approved operating permit program. Vermont will be one of those states; however, EPA plans to delegate the federal program to Vermont for the interim period leading up to the EPA approval of Vermont's program. The delegation will allow Vermont to substitute the state's permit application for the federal application. Regardless of the effective date of the federal program, facilities should continue to work with the Vermont DEC in obtaining their operating permit. At this time, facilities need only to submit the state application as discussed above.

For a more detailed explanation, please contact Brian Fitzgerald with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation at (802) 241-3840 or Donald Dahl, US EPA, at (617) 565-4298.

# Innovative Regulatory Programs:

## PROJECT XL (Project Excellence and Leadership)

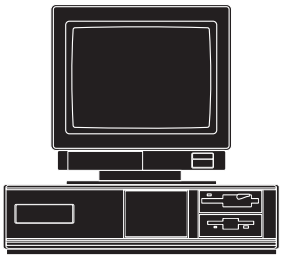
***Project XL***, announced by President Clinton last year, encourages real-world tests of innovative strategies that achieve cleaner and cheaper environmental results than conventional regulatory approaches. Under the program, EPA grants regulatory flexibility in exchange for an enforceable commitment by a regulated entity to achieve better environmental results than would have been attained through full compliance with current regulations. EPA has set a goal of implementing fifty pilot projects nationwide in four categories:

- facilities,
- industrial sectors,
- communities, and
- government agencies.

EPA is accepting and reviewing projects on a rolling basis.

XL projects must address the following eight criteria:

- environmental results;
- cost savings and paperwork reduction;
- stakeholder support;
- innovative/multi-media pollution prevention;
- transferability to other industries or facilities;
- technical, administrative, and monetary feasibility;
- monitoring, reporting, and evaluation techniques; and
- shifting of the risk burden to ensure worker safety and to address environmental justice concerns.



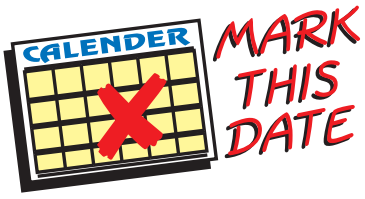
**XL in Vermont**

One facility already accepted into the XL program is the IBM semiconductor manufacturing facility in Essex Junction. IBM has proposed to treat its isopropyl alcohol solvent waste, which is currently classified as an ignitable hazardous waste, using an existing biological treatment system. This solvent, which contains a high concentration of carbon, will be incrementally blended with the existing wastewaters that are already treated in the biological treatment system. The addition of the carbon-containing isopropyl alcohol waste solvent would optimize the operating efficiency of the system and reduce the total pollutants discharged to the Winooski River. The proposal would also eliminate the hazards associated with off-site transport and incineration of over 150,000 gallons of isopropyl alcohol solvent per year.

***For more information contact***:
George Hawkins, Regional Project XL Coordinator - (617)565-9125
or e-mail hawkins.george@epamail.epa.gov

***For site-specific information, please contact***:
Andrew Miniuks, Project XL Co-Lead - (617)565-3049
or e-mail miniuks.andrew@epamail.epa.gov

Chris Rascher, Project XL Co-Lead - (617)565-9078
or e-mail rascher.chris@epamail.epa.gov




NAME: New England-wide Conference
Urban Integrated Pest Management

DATE: September 25, 1996

LOCATION: Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA

TARGET AUDIENCE: The target audience includes federal, state, and local government agencies including: environmental agencies and Boards of Health; members of academia; commercial pest control companies; and consumer advocates.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Allan Christensen at (617) 565-3763

## VERMONT STATE PROGRAM UNIT


Lynne Hamjian ..... Manager ..... (617) 565-3486
..... hamjian.lynne@epamail.epa.gov

Priscilla Feliciano ..... Secretary ..... (617) 565-3585
..... feliciano.priscilla@epamail.epa.gov

Beth Alafat ..... Wetlands ..... (617) 565-1545
..... alafat.beth@epamail.epa.gov

Ann Bonner ..... Groundwater ..... (617) 565-3488
..... bonner.ann@epamail.epa.gov

Anthony Ciccarelli ..... Water Supply/Drinking Water ..... (617) 565-3470
..... ciccarelli.anthony

Wendy Cohen ..... Non-Point Source Program ..... (617) 565-3496
..... cohen.wendy@epamail.epa.gov

Betsy Davis ..... Air/RCRA Coordinator ..... (617) 565-3481
..... davis.betsy@epamail.epa.gov

Lee Steppacher ..... Lake Champlain Basin Program ..... (617) 565-4883
..... steppacher.lee@epamail.epa.gov

William Wandle ..... Water Quality; NPDES Permits ..... (617) 565-3233
..... wandle.william@epamail.epa.gov

Fax number: ..... (617) 565-4940


EPA
Region 1, New England


**Vermont State Program Unit**
**JFK Federal Building**
**CVT**
**Boston, MA 02203**


First Class Mail
Postage and Fees
PAID
Permit G-35